AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for assessing the condition of a ~~person support surface~~ mattress in situ on a bed base which apparatus comprises a frame for extending over the ~~support surface~~ mattress, an indenter mounted on said frame and a load sensor disposed between the indenter and the frame, means for pressing the indenter into the ~~support surface~~ mattress, displacement measuring means for measuring the movement of the indenter into the ~~support surface~~ mattress and data processing means for analyzing the force applied to the indenter in relation to the displacement of the indenter into the ~~support surface~~ mattress, wherein the apparatus ~~is mobile and~~ includes ~~manually actuated~~ means for pressing the indenter into the ~~support surface~~ mattress, and the processing means is configured to discriminate and exclude the displacement arising from deflection of the bed base from the displacement arising from deflection of the mattress to thereby identify the load/displacement relationship of the mattress.

2. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the frame is supported in cantilever from one side of the ~~support surface~~ mattress.

3. (Original) Apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the frame includes means for removable attachment to a bed base for supporting a mattress.

4. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 2 wherein the frame is mobile, being supported from a base member having wheels, the base member being adapted to ~~extend~~ fit beneath a bed base, while said frame is adapted to extend in cantilever over a mattress supported on said bed base.

5. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the apparatus has ~~said~~ manually operated means comprising a handle for depressing the indenter into the support surface.

6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the indenter comprises a curved surface mounted ~~for rotational movement~~ on said frame.

7. (Original) Apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein the curved surface comprises a wheel or sphere.

8. (Original) Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the frame comprises a parallelogram linkage.

9. (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~according to Claim 1,~~ for assessing the condition of a person support surface which comprises a frame for extending over the support surface, an indenter mounted on said frame and a load sensor disposed between the indenter and the frame, means for pressing the indenter into the support surface, displacement measuring means for measuring the movement of the indenter into the support surface and data processing means for analyzing the force applied to the indenter in relation to the displacement of the indenter into the support surface, wherein the apparatus is mobile and includes manually actuated means for pressing the indenter into the support surface, wherein said data processing means includes means for assigning an identifying code to a support surface to be tested and for preparing a label bearing said code and data relating to the behavior of the ~~mattress~~ support surface when tested.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of testing a mattress in situ on a bed base which comprises applying to the surface of the mattress an indenter, depressing the indenter into the mattress, measuring the displacement of the indenter as a function of the load applied to the indenter, constructing a load/displacement curve and discriminating and excluding the displacement arising from deflection of the bed base from the displacement arising from deflection of the mattress to thereby identify the load/displacement relationship of the mattress.

11. (New) Apparatus for assessing the condition of a mattress in situ on a bed base which apparatus comprises a frame for extending over the mattress, an indenter

mounted on said frame and a load sensor disposed between the indenter and the frame, means for pressing the indenter into the mattress, displacement measuring means for measuring the movement of the indenter into the mattress and data processing means for analyzing the force applied to the indenter in relation to the displacement of the indenter into the mattress, wherein the apparatus includes means for pressing the indenter into the mattress, wherein the indenter comprises a curved surface mounted on said frame.

12. (New) Apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the curved surface is mounted for rotational movement on said frame.

13. (New) Apparatus for assessing the condition of a mattress in situ on a bed base which apparatus comprises a frame for extending over the mattress, an indenter mounted on said frame and a load sensor disposed between the indenter and the frame, means for pressing the indenter into the mattress, displacement measuring means for measuring the movement of the indenter into the mattress and data processing means for analyzing the force applied to the indenter in relation to the displacement of the indenter into the mattress, wherein the apparatus includes means for pressing the indenter into the mattress, and is mobile by virtue of having wheels, and is readily movable so that base member of the apparatus extends beneath the bed base.